



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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**National Security Subcommittee to Hold February 23 Field Hearing
on Chemical Plant Security Against Terrorism**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing Monday, February 23, 2004, 9:30 a.m. in the Moon Township Municipal Building, 1000 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township, PA. The Subcommittee will hear testimony on the topic, "Combating Terrorism: Chemical Plant Security."

Congressman Tim Murphy (R-18th), a member of the Subcommittee, invited the panel to Pennsylvania to discuss this aspect of homeland security with state and local emergency management officials and industry association representatives. Mr. Robert Liscouski, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will testify.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine federal programs and voluntary actions by the chemical industry to address the vulnerability of chemical production and distribution facilities to terrorist attacks.

The intentional release or detonation of toxic or flammable chemicals at a large facility could have catastrophic consequences. Enhancing security preparedness and response capabilities at critical infrastructure sites, such as chemical plants, has been under discussion since September 11, 2001. The Subcommittee is examining progress to date in identifying critical sites, assessing vulnerabilities and measuring the effectiveness of government and private efforts to secure sites.

Witness List

Panel One

Hon. Robert Liscouski

Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Chief Robert Full

Chief,
Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services

Mr. Thomas W. Headley

Vice-Chairman, Forward Township,
Board of Supervisors

Mr. Dave Sanko

Director,
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

Panel Two

Mr. John Stephenson,

Director of Natural Resources and Environment,
U.S. General Accounting Office

Ms. Pamela Witmer,

President,
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council

Mr. Marty Durbin

Team Leader - Security & Operations, Senior Director – Federal Relations,
American Chemistry Council

Ms. Jennifer C. Gibson

Vice President, Government & Public Affairs,
National Association of Chemical Distributor